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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Amb. Edelman: No military action against PKK in short term - Hurriyet
US keeps the PKK, kicks out Mujahedeen from Iraq - Hurriyet
Turkey on list for Iraq rebuilding contracts - Turkiye
Iraqi war crimes court to try Saddam - Sabah
Serdar Denktas: EU has eyes on Cyprus oil - Sabah
Lots of human rights violations in schoolbooks - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Amb. Edelman: Fine-tuning needed after elections in Cyprus - Cumhuriyet
Edelman: We won't leave Incirlik - Cumhuriyet
Edelman assures no changes in demographic structure of Iraq - Zaman
Washington perseveres on Cyprus - Cumhuriyet
TRNC opposition vows no coalition with status quo after elections - Radikal
Weston to launch new Cyprus proposals after polls - Radikal
Iraq war opponents excluded from rebuilding contracts - Radikal
Germans want Turks in EU - Yeni Safak
US killed 15 children in single day in Afghanistan - Cumhuriyet
US bombs Afghan children twice in one week - Zaman

BRIEFING

Ambassador Edelman roundtable with press: At a roundtable with national press representatives, US Ambassador Eric Edelman underlined the significance of a new era between the US and Turkey following last year's Iraq crisis. Ambassador Edelman said the US had been pleased with Ankara's decision to deploy troops to Iraq. US-Turkish cooperation in the struggle against terror will continue, he stressed, adding that the PKK/KADEK will not be allowed to use Iraqi territory. Responding to a question, Ambassador Edelman said the US is working on realigning its troops to meet new threats around the world. "I don't think much will change in the joint use of Incirlik Air Base," he emphasized. Commenting on Cyprus, Edelman said the US will continue to support the Annan Plan, and noted that all concerned parties would have to make adjustments in their Cyprus policies after the Turkish Cypriot elections. Edelman also said reports about the Uzans hiding in the US have not been confirmed, but that he had conveyed to Washington Turkey's application for the extradition of some Uzan family members. The US wants to add a more prominent economic aspect to its strategic cooperation with Turkey, Edelman noted. Ambassador Edelman also predicted that US-Turkish relations would gain new momentum with the Washington visit of Prime Minister Erdogan in late January and the attendance by President Bush at NATO's Istanbul summit in late June.

Cyprus: The US Administration believes that if the opposition wins the Turkish Cypriot elections, negotiations within the framework of the Annan Plan will be resumed swiftly, "Cumhuriyet" reports. Thomas Weston will be in Ankara December 14, and will shape his talks with Turkish officials in light of the election results. Weston will go to the island on December 17 to meet with Papadopoulos and Denktas to present new proposals for a settlement, the paper

claims.

Israeli capital financing bank loans for Kurds: The Kurdistan Credit Bank is offering loans for Kurds willing to buy property from Turkmen and Arabs in Northern Iraq, "Milliyet" reports. Israeli sponsors have extended credits amounting to \$300 million via the Kurdistan Credit Bank in Suleymaniye to ensure the transfer of Turkmen and Arab property to Kurds, according to a Turkish intelligence report. The loans can be used only for the purpose of buying land or homes from Turkmen and Arabs living in Mosul, Kirkuk, Irbil, Baquba, Fallujah and Salahaddin.

Turkey, Greece sign air corridor agreement: Turkey and Greece have signed an agreement for the opening of five new air corridors over the Aegean. The agreement aims to ease intense air traffic in the Aegean during the 2004 Olympic Games to be held in Athens.

Human rights violations in schoolbooks: In a project sponsored by the Turkish Science Academy, the History Foundation, Turkey's Human Rights Foundation, the EU Commission and the Open Society Institute, 190 schoolbooks used in elementary and secondary schools have been scanned by 165 teachers and academics, 51 parents, and 71 students from the viewpoint of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other human rights documents. The researchers have spotted 4,000 problems in the textbooks. The problems are related mainly to gender, race and religious discrimination, "Milliyet" reports.

EDITORIAL OPINION:
Global Defense Posture; Europe/Transatlantic Relations

"Global Defense Posture"

Fikret Ertan commented in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (12/11): "The need for a reorganization of American military strategy in the post-cold war era has been a longstanding issue. Yet the US waited too long to develop and implement a plan. In the meantime, we have seen the events of September 11 and the operation in Afghanistan. Today we see a determination in the US about implementing a plan called the Global Defense Posture (GDP). . The GDP makes it a priority to reshape the US military presence in a cost-effective and more functional way. There will be downsizing of some military bases in Europe and the opening of some new bases in countries such as Poland, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. . The new American bases will be designed to cope with the new enemy -- terrorism. The forces in these bases will be capable of responding to a terrorist threat in the shortest possible time. The notion of the 'shortest time' is no longer months, or even days. The US wants to react instantly to any terrorist attack anywhere in the world. The GDP is the strategy to realize this goal."

"Competition Between the EU and the US "

Akif Emre argued in the Islamist-oriented Yeni Safak (12/11): "The rapprochement between Syria and the EU signals a new phase in the polarization between the EU and the US. It is a meaningful in itself that the EU agreed to establish economic and strategic relations with Syria on the eve of a possible US operation against Syria. Evidently the EU is trying to exert its influence in areas abandoned by the US. The EU does not support Sharon's policies and, unlike the US, has taken the Palestine side by declaring Arafat a legitimate leader. The US-EU difference was also clear during the Iraq crisis and afterward. . The European Union proved itself as a regional power and is ready to become more influential through a global strategy. From the US perspective, the EU may be a midget militarily speaking, but is an economic and political giant. The polarization, particularly on the Middle East, is similar to the competition between the US and the USSR during the cold war."

EDELMAN